

Grade 8 Sample Test Prompt

Ideas & Content

People run for elected offices, from the President of the United States to class officers in a school. You are running for class president for your grade level.

Write an essay convincing your classmates that you are the best choice for president.

Your writing should:

- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- State reasons why you would make a good class president .
- Include details that support your reasons .

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

IDEAS and CONTENT

<p>6</p> <p>The writing is exceptionally clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader’s attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support • a thorough, balanced, in-depth explanation/ exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well suited to audience and purpose. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writing is clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader’s attention. Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. • a thorough, balanced explanation/exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose. 	<p>4</p> <p>The writing is clear and focused. The reader can easily understand the main ideas. Support is present, although it may be limited or rather general. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an easily identifiable purpose. • clear main idea(s) • supporting details that are relevant, but may be overly general or limited in places; when appropriate, resources are used to provide accurate support. • a topic that is explored/explained, although developmental details may occasionally be out of balance with the main idea(s); some connections and insights may be present. • content and selected details that are relevant, but perhaps not consistently well chosen for audience and purpose.
<p>3</p> <p>The reader can understand the main ideas, although they may be overly broad or simplistic, and the results may not be effective. Supporting detail is often limited, insubstantial, overly general, or occasionally slightly off-topic. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an easily identifiable purpose and main idea(s). • predictable or overly-obvious main ideas or plot; conclusions or main points seem to echo observations heard elsewhere. • support that is attempted; but developmental details that are often limited in scope, uneven, somewhat off-topic, predictable, or overly general. • details that may not be well-grounded in credible resources; they may be based on clichés, stereotypes or questionable sources of information. • difficulties when moving from general observations to specifics. 	<p>2</p> <p>Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a purpose and main idea(s) that may require extensive inferences by the reader. • minimal development; insufficient details. • irrelevant details that clutter the text. • extensive repetition of detail. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing lacks a central idea or purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideas that are extremely limited or simply unclear. • attempts at development that are minimal or non-existent; the paper is too short to demonstrate the development of an idea.

Grade 8 Writing Ideas & Content – Score Point 1

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

I am running for class president at my school
and I want to get as much votes as I could so
I could win. If I do win I will give so much to the
school I will help out so much. Even if I don't win I
will still help out because you have to stay positive

Score point 1 -- Ideas are extremely limited. Attempts at development are minimal. The paper is too short to demonstrate the development of an idea.

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

Class President

If you vote for me to be class president, I will be trustworthy to my class mates. I would also be a responsible student. I would be on time to every class, and I would be at school every day.

I would follow every school rule and I would go to all meetings. I would have good grades and good ideas for my class. I would be on the principle honor roll. I would never get in trouble with teacher. That is my president speech.

Score point 2 -- Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear.
Development is attempted but minimal. The paper has insufficient details.

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DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

Students I think
you should vote for me I will try
to help all of you. I will have
trash cans all over the place
because I want a clean campus
please don't litter. I will have
more pizza. Please people don't throw
gum just on the floor please where
it goes. I will help you if you
help me. Just students stop throw-
ing it on the floor.

I might even tutor some students
that need a helping hand or
are stuck on something. You can
have drinks on campus you can
eat food or candy but if it starts
getting messy again then I'm
afraid I'm going to stop it. But
the only thing is that you can't
eat or drink in the buildings.

Please no graffiti on locker keep
lockers clean. I will even have more

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Go On 

ting

FINAL COPY

Security guards around to help. I promise you will have fun. I will even have a fun day. I will have Candy, food, drink and Music. Do you ask why a fun party because you deserve it. There will not be any drugs of any kind or weapons and sharp object do count as weapons. Do not poke any one with pens, pencils, paper clips or rubber bands. I will not let students get pushed around just because they're smaller than anyone else. There has been too many fights lately and I don't want students suspended or hurt because of stupid fights. Thank you know for ~~best~~ listening hope you vote for me.

Score point 3 -- The paper has main ideas that are simplistic and supporting detail is often limited, insubstantial, overly general. Details that may not be well-grounded in credible resources, such as “security guards,” “Do not poke anyone...,” and “a fun day.” Main points seem to echo observations heard elsewhere.



riting**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Every year at school we elect new Officers to help with the school. This year I would like to be your president.

I would be the best choice for president because I'll make things happen, I'll listen to your suggestions, and I like our school so I want it to be a better place to learn.

By saying "I'll make things happen" means I will try to get us spirit days so we can enjoy dressing up and showing our spirit for our school. I'll make sure our pep assemblies are amusing so people won't be bored at them as usual. Also, I'll try to get us a school dance or something fun so we can all remember Junior High as one of the best times we had.

Some of the officers we've had before didn't listen to what you had to say but I will! I want to hear what you as the students of Jr. High, want to happen at school. If you want a "Disco Day" as one of our spirit days then I will try to get it for us. If you make a suggestion I will listen to you and see

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Go On 

Writing—**FINAL COPY**

if I can make it happen.

I like our school, and I don't want to remember Junior High just as three long, boring years that seemed pointless! I want to remember it as a fun time I had with all my friends, dressing up on spirit days, and learning. Yes, some of you don't like coming to school and some days I admit I don't either, but it doesn't mean I don't care. I want our school to be a nice place to come to, and have a clean campus.

Now, I can't tell you that I can get the dress-code changed, or I can make it so we have longer passing time, but I can tell you I will try to do things for you, listen, and will still care about our school.

That's why you should elect me, as your student body president.

Score point 4 -- Writing is clear and focused. Supporting details are relevant. The writer focuses on why he/she is the best choice with details such as activities "...so we all can remember Junior High as one of the best times we had." The writer also shows some connections and insights, such as "I want to hear from you as the students..."



Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

My name is _____, and I am running for the position of eighth grade class president. I decided to run for this position because I feel that I possess the traits and abilities needed to take on this task. I am neat and organized, I do well in school, and I have leadership qualities as well. There is so much that I can contribute to this school if you vote for me. I've come up with several ideas that would benefit _____ High. By voting for me, I will promise to do my best to fulfill your needs.

I think I would make a great class president. I've had prior experience in student council in sixth grade, when I was the student body treasurer. I know how to listen to other peoples' views, and actually have something done about it. I also have leadership skills, which is why the president is a good job for me.

I have many ideas on how we can improve this school. We can interview the students to see what they would like to change or have. This way, by getting your input, the things you've wanted can become reality! You could then become active with our school's happenings. Another brainstorm I had was doing some more fundraisers and sales. Those are fun, and really aid our school. For certain holidays, we can sell things corresponding with that theme. For instance, around Valentine's Day, we can sell cards and lollipops that you

Go On ■

Writing

FINAL COPY

can buy for someone and we'll deliver them. The money raised will then go towards making your life at school more comfortable.

I feel that I have all the characteristics needed to be the president and represent the eighth grade class. I am very organized, which comes in handy. I am punctual and will be well prepared for all meetings. I also do well in school. I have consecutive A's, and take all my work seriously. One of the most important things that I do is that I care about other people's needs. I am willing to listen to your concerns, and I care about your opinion. I like to help others, because by helping them it makes me feel good, and in a way helps me too.

Aside from the fact that I can contribute to the school by obtaining the position of eighth grade class president, and possess the required qualities, I feel that I can serve you and help you in all ways I can. I am a leader, and I will go to certain measures to get your voices heard. I promise to put in effort and be the best president I can be!

After hearing this, I want you to reflect upon what I said, and the promises I will honor and keep. I am asking you to vote for me, _____, for eighth grade class president. I won't let you down!

Score point 5 -- The paper holds the reader's attention. It is clear and focused. Main ideas stand out. It offers a thorough, balanced explanation/exploration of the topic. Content and selected details are well-suited to audience and purpose. "I am willing to listen to your concerns, and I care about your opinion."

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Hello, ladies, gentlemen, and fellow class mates. I'm here today to discuss personal issues and matters about our school and why I should be elected class president.

One day as I was walking down I started noticing that not very many of our drinking fountains work. Another thing I have noticed is that candy and snack prices are now drastically higher. Do you notice these things as well as I can? Would you like to express your thoughts and feelings on matters like this? Does it ever feel that no matter how hard you try that no one is listening? Well friends I'm here to tell you that I'm listening and that your thoughts and opinions matter to me. I'm here letting you know that if I'm elected class president that matters like these will be taken care of properly with your voice and opinion kept in mind.

To be a good class president one must help the school by first helping the community. I do community service in my free time during the week. I try helping the community as well as the school by volunteering and giving back. I donate food and money for the hungry and poor. I also deliver meals to the elderly and pick up trash for community service. Being a good Samaritan would be a must for a class president.

Just as our country's great leaders have had some form of education in their life, a well-taught student could be a great class president. I can say confidently that as of this moment I have all A's in my classes. I am currently enrolled in some higher level thinking classes. I constantly find myself studying trying to make the grade. A good well-educated student is a very good thing to be as a class president.

To succeed as a class president one would have to have good people skills. One would have to be able to cooperate with other people. There is not a single person in this room that I haven't had the

Writing**FINAL COPY**

a great opportunity of working with a class president would be to take different individuals and mix them together and work as a team.

A good class president has to be good at voicing other people's opinion. I would also have to be a good listener. I find myself talking to all the students about different things. I make an effort to talk to everybody. Sometimes people come to me with a personal or academic problem, so I do my best to help them with their dilemmas. I'm here to listen and feel free to express your thoughts and opinions on pressing matters. I will do my best to make sure that your opinions are heard and known.

Dealing with all this stress, worry, and responsibility you have to know when to take it easy and just be laid back. I sure know how to have fun. It seems I'm constantly doing extra-curricular activities so when I have free time to myself, I like to have fun. I like to read for pleasure and relaxation. I go to the movies with friends for fun also. I go skate boarding once in a while. Having fun and taking it easy once in a while is a plus for a class president.

Being a class president would be no easy task. To be a class president it is impossible to be just one thing. Being class president isn't just a title but almost a lifestyle. It also means being a representation of many things. So being a class president incorporates many different tasks.

Score point 6 -- Writing is exceptionally clear. It holds the reader's attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support ...suitable to audience and purpose. The paper is balanced with rich details: "good at voicing other people's opinion" and "Being class president isn't just a title but almost a lifestyle..." Paragraph 5 is truly appropriate support for the topic.